

# Advice from Rock Creek Park

By Stephanie Burt

What will survive us  
has already begun

Oak galls  
Two termites' curious  
self-perpetuating bodies

Letting the light through the gaps

They lay out their allegiances  
under the roots  
of an overturned tree

Almost always better  
to build than to wreck

You can build in a wreck


Under the roots  
of an overturned tree

Consider the martin that hefts  
herself over traffic cones

Consider her shadow  
misaligned  
over parking-lot cement  
Saran Wrap scrap in her beak

Nothing lasts  
forever not even  
the future we want

The President has never  
owned the rain



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